

# NOOKSACK/SAMISH - NORTH FORK NOOKSACK FALL CHUM

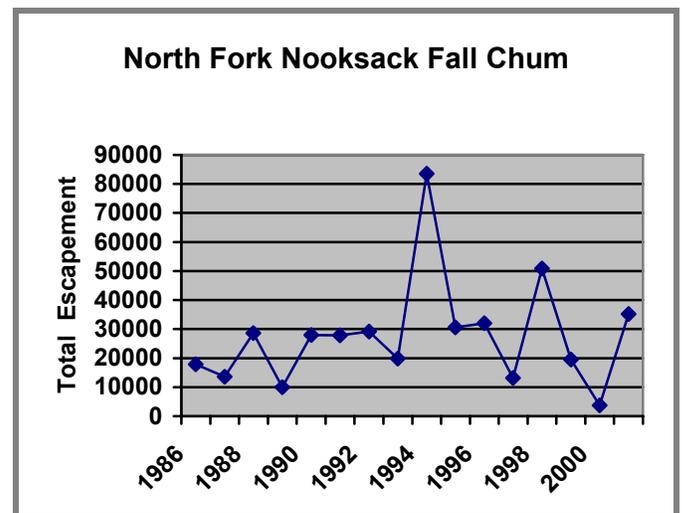
## STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS <b>Healthy</b>	2002 STATUS <b>Healthy</b>
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## STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: Good

YEAR	TOTAL ESCAPEMENT
1986	17,879
1987	13,589
1988	28,612
1989	9,992
1990	27,995
1991	27,888
1992	29,137
1993	19,855
1994	83,503
1995	30,621
1996	31,969
1997	13,198
1998	50,911
1999	19,547
2000	3,760
2001	35,148



Data are total escapement estimates based on the comparison of annual live spawner curves for the North Fork Nooksack, side channels, and Maple Creek to curves for the same areas in 1978 and 1979 when escapements were estimated by mark-and-recapture tagging studies.

North Fork Nooksack fall chum escapements have displayed a modest increase since the early 1980s with large escapements in excess of 50,000 spawners in 1994 and 1998. Escapement was low in 2000; however, escapements in other recent years have been strong. Stock status is rated **Healthy** in 2002.

## STOCK DEFINITION

North Fork Nooksack fall chum were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution.

**SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION:** Most spawning takes place in North Fork Nooksack River sloughs, side channels and in large tributaries such as Maple Creek and Racehorse Slough.

**SPAWNING TIMING:** Spawning generally occurs from late November through early January.

**GENETIC ANALYSIS:** Allozyme analysis has shown North Fork chum to be genetically distinct from all other Washington and Canadian chum stocks examined (Phelps et al. 1995).

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### STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **native** stock with **wild** production.